Congressman Ernest Istook, 5th District of the State of Oklahoma

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Contact: Matt Lambert/John O'Brien
(202) 225-2132

OSU Body Armor Program Saves Iraq War Vets Lives, Limbs

Istook secures federal funding for important body armor program

Washington, DC – Congressman Ernest Istook (R-Warr Acres) joined representatives from Oklahoma State University and other federal officials in unveiling cutting edge body armor technology designed to save the lives and limbs of American soldiers fighting in the War on Terror.

QuadGuard body armor protects the limbs of American soldiers from damage caused by exploding road side bombs. By providing flexible extensions to protect arms and legs, it differs from traditional body armor that covers only the torso. This new technology was researched and developed at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma and partially funded by a $3 million grant secured by Rep. Istook in 2006. The flexible armored suit ads about 10 lbs. to the torso only armor and includes a hidden protective layer of ballistic cloth known as Dyneema, which is 15 times stronger than an equal weight of steel.

"Roadside bombs filled with shrapnel not only kill American soldiers, but they can also cause such terrible wounds to the arms and legs of survivors that they require amputation," said Istook. **"This technology is designed to protect those exposed areas and make sure that when our soldiers both survive an attack and come home in one piece. OSU has found a way to extend protection to a soldier's arms and legs without losing flexibility or adding too much weight."**

This cutting edge body armor is not a thing of the future, but already rolling off the production line and being used in combat. CoverCraft Industries Inc. of Paul's Valley, Okla., is one of only two companies in the United States that are using this OSU developed technology to make more than 5,000 suits, most of which are already in use in Iraq.

"I want to commend Congressman Istook for his leadership in helping secure the dollars to allow Oklahoma State University to move forward on this lifesaving work with the military," said OSU System CEO and President David J. Schmidly. **"Our body armor project represents the practical application of research that land grant universities like OSU are known for and we cannot think of a more worthy application than protecting our soldiers. We are extremely proud of this work."**

The body armor project has been funded through the U.S. Naval Research Laboratories in Washington D.C. Ballistic testing and research input is provided by the U.S. Army Research Lab, the Aberdeen Testing Grounds in Maryland.

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